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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Planter History Project for Oklahoma

BEHN, FREDERIC HILL.

INTERVIEW

#7308

Field Worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) August 23, 1937.

1. Name Frederic Hill Behn.

2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Oklahoma, Route 1.

3. Residence address (or location) 1 mi. E. and 1/2 mi. S. of
Rosenwall School.

4. DATE OF BIRTH: Day Year 1876

5. Place of birth Georgia.

6. Name of Father C.W. Behn, (colored) Place of birth

Other information about father

7. Name of Mother Nancy Green, (colored) Place of birth: South
Carolina.

Other information about mother

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached two sheets

BEHN, FREDERIC HILL

INTERVIEW

#7308.

Grace Kelley,
Interviewer.
August 23, 1937

Rentie Settlement, (colored).
Rev. F.H. Behn, Henryetta, Route 1.

When I came to the Indian Territory in 1900, there was a store on Cloud Creek southeast of Muskogee and a post office at Boynton.

When I came to this place, two miles east and a half mile south of Rock store, in 1903, there were four families living close together. Morris Rentie had come here first and the other three families were those of Pumpa Robertson, Noble Jacobs, and Jack Mitchell.

We got our provisions and mail from Muskogee. There were a lot of trails.

Congress had made an appropriation of \$150,000 for schools for citizens and non-citizens. As there were no schools here and children fourteen and fifteen years old didn't know their A-B-C's, I wrote to the Secretary of the Interior and told him the condition that existed and asked if this could be allowed to be called the Morris Rentie Neighborhood, as Morris Rentie was the first person to live here and it was his birthright to have the place named for him, and I didn't want to steal his birth-

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INTERVIEW

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right by asking them to name it for me. Ethan A. Hitchcock, then Secretary of the Interior, wrote back that this should be known as the Rentie Neighborhood. We built a boxhouse a mile west and a half mile south of the Rock Store. It was a free school.

Cemeteries

Non-citizens couldn't bury on allotments, so they had to take their dead where Weleetka is now to Okmulgee for burial. The citizens had their own burial grounds at their homes. So we bought a graveyard a half mile south and a mile west of the Rock Store.

Scattered Herds

The whites used to drive large herds of cattle through from Texas. The Indians would scatter them by scaring them; the cattle didn't like the scent of the Indians, and it wasn't hard for the Indians to stampede them. Then the whites wouldn't get them all back together and the Indians would have plenty of beeves to kill.